



DOC REF. NO:	EFFECTIVE DATE:	REVIEW DUE DATE:
NAFDAC-		

POLICY ON THE BAN OF PARAQUAT

INTRODUCTION

Paraquat is a fast-acting herbicide on a wide range of annual grasses and broad-leaved weeds in crops. It is highly toxic to humans and the environment and enters the body mainly by swallowing, inhaling, or through damaged skin. Exposure to paraquat may lead to burns in the mouth, acute respiratory distress, loss of appetite, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, and fever. Muscle pain, lethargy, shortness of breath, acute poisoning including the death of the fetus or chronic effects that can persist for a lifetime and rapid heartbeat among others.

DIRECTIVE

Paraquat is a widely used herbicide in several parts of the world. It is banned due to its potential to contaminate water sources and its persistence in soil for a long period of time as a result of misuse and abuse. Paraquat is said to be highly toxic to humans and the environment.

It is the mandate of the Agency to ensure safe and responsible use of agrochemicals by assuring only quality, effective and safe agrochemicals are registered by the Agency. This has led to the prohibition of the use of paraquat in Nigeria.

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